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CONFIDENTIAL

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Director, Central Intelligence
Through: Chief, Inspection and Security
Assistant Director, Reports and Estimates

Department of Commerce Assistance to CIA

1. The Office of Reports and Estimates forwarded, via [redacted], on 9 March 1949 a Requirement Directive to the Chemicals Branch, Office of International Trade, Department of Commerce, concerning the supply in Europe of three categories of strategically important chemicals, viz, coal tar crudes, ethyl alcohol, and glycerin. That particular Branch has been extremely helpful, despite a limited number of personnel, in supplying [redacted] with required information on these commodities.

2. Recently it was ascertained that the Chemicals Branch has been asked to justify the over-all value of its work. Because of CIA interest in the output of this organization, it is believed that a memorandum expressing CIA appreciation for past assistance and our continuing interest in information related to the national security (particularly in regard to the above strategic chemicals) should be forwarded to the Department of Commerce.

3. It is therefore requested that the attached memorandum be forwarded to the Secretary of Commerce.

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Distribution:
Asst. Director, ORE - (2)
Plans and Policy - (2)
Information Control - (2)
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Recommendations

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